

tuberculata and *Chalinolobus tuberculatus* refer to, and to change either of them would create confusion.

(4) Adrian Paterson

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I use the name *Mystacina tuberculata* Gray, 1843 frequently, in teaching, research and publications. This bat is subject to a great deal of research in New Zealand due to its uniqueness and high conservation needs, and its scientific name is in constant usage. I strongly support the application.

(5) Peter D. Dwyer

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I agree with the proposals to preserve the universal usage of the names *Mystacina tuberculata* Gray, 1843 and *Chalinolobus tuberculatus* (J.R. Forster, 1844). Spencer & Lee's discussion and recommendations reach beyond, but concur with, my own conclusions (Dwyer, 1960, pp. 10–12; 1962, pp. 2–3). Hutton's (1872) specific name *velutina* was an unnecessary replacement name for Gray's *Mystacina tuberculata*, and apart from Thomas (1905) and Mayer et al. (1999) has been used by nobody. I support Spencer & Lee's application in the interests of nomenclatural stability.

Additional references

Dwyer, P.D. 1960. *Studies on New Zealand Chiroptera*. Unpublished M.Sc. thesis, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Dwyer, P.D. 1962. Studies on the two New Zealand bats. *Zoology Publications from Victoria University of Wellington*, 28: 1–28.

Comments on the proposed conservation of *Holochilus* Brandt, 1835, *Proechimys* J.A. Allen, 1899 and *Trinomys* Thomas, 1921 (Mammalia, Rodentia) by the designation of *H. sciureus* Wagner, 1842 as the type species of *Holochilus* (Case 3121; see BZN 56: 255–261)

(1) Ulyses F.J. Pardiñas

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After a careful study of the application I completely agree with the proposal to conserve the names *Holochilus* Brandt, 1835, *Proechimys* J.A. Allen, 1899 and *Trinomys* Thomas, 1921 for three genera of Neotropical rodents.

My concerns lie with *Holochilus* as I have worked with sigmodontines, particularly fossils but extant as well, for the last 10 years. This genus has a rich fossil record in southern South America, ranging from Middle Pleistocene to Holocene (see Pardiñas, 1999). The first citations (as *Holochilus multannus* Ameghino, 1889 and

H. vulpinus (Brants, 1827)) in the paleontological literature were by Florentino Ameghino in his (1889) classical work 'Contribución al Conocimiento de los Mamíferos Fósiles de la República Argentina'. Since then, numerous fossil remains have been described in Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, including an extinct species from the Pleistocene in Bolivia (see Stepan, 1996; para. 1 of the application). In this context, *Holochilus* remains are morphologically distinguishable with respect to the teeth, mandible and skull. A proof of this is the absence of synonyms — at generic level — from the paleontological record, in clear contrast to many other sigmodontines such as *Necomys* Ameghino, 1889, *Reithrodon* Fischer, 1814 or *Graomys* Waterhouse, 1837 (see Massoia & Pardiñas, 1993; Pardiñas, 1995).

The designation of *Holochilus sciureus* Wagner, 1842 as the type species of the genus *Holochilus* will be a good choice to conserve the stability of a strong and well known generic name.

I emphatically support the application made by Voss & Abramson.

Additional references

- Massoia, E. & Pardiñas, U.F.J. 1993. El estado sistemático de algunos muroideos estudiados por Ameghino en 1889. Revalidación del género *Necomys* (Mammalia, Rodentia, Cricetidae). *Ameghiniana*, 30(4): 407–418.
- Pardiñas, U.F.J. 1995. Sobre las vicisitudes de los géneros *Bothriomys* Ameghino, 1889, *Euneomys* Coues, 1874 y *Graomys* Thomas, 1916 (Mammalia, Rodentia, Cricetidae). *Ameghiniana*, 32(2): 173–180.
- Pardiñas, U.F.J. 1999. Fossil murids: taxonomy, paleoecology, and paleoenvironments. *Quaternary of South America and Antarctic Peninsula*, 12: 225–254.

(2) Marisol Aguilera

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I write to support the application made by Robert S. Voss and Nataliya I. Abramson. I agree with keeping the name of *Holochilus* Brandt, 1835 for a genus of myomorphous neotropical marsh rats, and those of *Proechimys* J.A. Allen, 1899 and *Trinomys* Thomas, 1921 for hystricomorphous neotropical spiny rats.

(3) James L. Patton

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I write in strong support of the proposal by Robert S. Voss and Nataliya I. Abramson to conserve the present usage of the names *Holochilus* Brandt, 1835, *Proechimys* J.A. Allen, 1899 and *Trinomys* Thomas, 1921 by the designation of *H. sciureus* Wagner, 1842 as the type species of *Holochilus*.

As amply documented in the case presented, these names have been widely applied to individually well-recognized groups of rats in a very diverse literature, one that includes a vast array of ecological, genetic and epidemiological studies as well as systematic, phylogenetic and biogeographic analyses. As currently recognized, spiny rats of the genus *Proechimys* (sensu stricto) are among the most speciose and locally common members of the lowland moist forest communities of Amazonia north to